

A TRIFOLIOLATE SPECIES OF KOANOPHYLLON (ASTERACEAE-EUPATORIEAE)
FROM CHIAPAS, MEXICO

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Studies for a treatment of the Asteraceae of Mexico (Turner and Nesom, in prep.) have revealed a trifoliolate species of the genus Koanophyllon (sensu King and Robinson, 1971), a segregate from the large genus Eupatorium. The only two collections known possess both simple and trifoliolate leaves on the same plants, but trifoliolate leaves predominate. Fig. 1 reveals the range of variation found.

I have dubbed this, presumably undescribed taxon, K. tripartitum. It is related to the simple-leaved K. ravenii King & H. Rob. and differs by yet other characters including phyllary shape, peduncle length and pappus size.

KOANOPHYLLON TRIPARTITUM B. Turner, sp. nov.

K. ravenii King & H. Rob. simile sed foliis tripartitism phyllariis obtusis vel truncatis, et setis pappi numerosioribus longioribus differt.

Reportedly an arching shrub to 1.5 m high. Stems terete, striate, densely purplish puberulent. Leaves opposite, 5-9 cm long, 3-7 cm wide, predominantly trifoliolate, but a few simple leaves also present; petioles 10-15 mm long, densely pubescent like the stems; petiolules 0-8 mm long; leaflets ovate, irregularly dentate; simple leaves deltoid, 3-nervate from the base, dentate, densely glandular-punctate beneath. Heads white, ca 4 mm high, arranged in spike-like, terminal or axillary, interrupted globose clusters, the ultimate peduncles 2-5 mm long. Involucre subimbricate, 2-3 seriate, 2.5-3.5 mm long, the bracts truncate-lacerate or obtuse-lacerate at the apices. Florets ca 10 per head; corollas ca 2 mm long, the lobes atomiferous glandular. Achenes 2.5-3.0 mm long, hispidulous, the pappus of 30-40 persistent bristles 2-3 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. CHIAPAS: Mpio. de La Independencia, ridge with lower montane rain forest, 45-50 km E of Lagos de Montebello National Park on road to Ixcán from Santa Elena, 760 m, 22 Jan 1982, D. E. Breedlove & F. Almeda 57695 (holotype TEX; isotypes CAS, etc.).

Additional Specimen Examined: MEXICO. CHIAPAS, Mpio. de la Independencia, "rocky slope with Pinus, Acacia and Quercus above and SW of La Soledad on road to Las Margaritas", 1525 m, 29 Sep 1981, Breedlove 53093 (TEX).

The two sheets concerned were distributed as K. ravenii but they differ from that species in possessing 3-foliolate leaves; phyllaries with obtuse or truncate, lacerate, apices; longer ultimate peduncles;

and pappus bristles more numerous and longer (30-40 vs ca 20; 2-3 mm long vs ca 0.5 mm). In total characters K. tripartitum is somewhat intermediate to K. ravenii and K. solidaginoides (H.B.K.) King & H. Rob., but the 3-foliolate leaves and obtuse or truncate involucrel bracts are diagnostic.

I am grateful to Dr. Guy Nesom for the Latin diagnosis.

LITERATURE CITED

King, R. and H. Robinson. 1971. The genus Koanophyllon. Phytologia 22: 147-152.

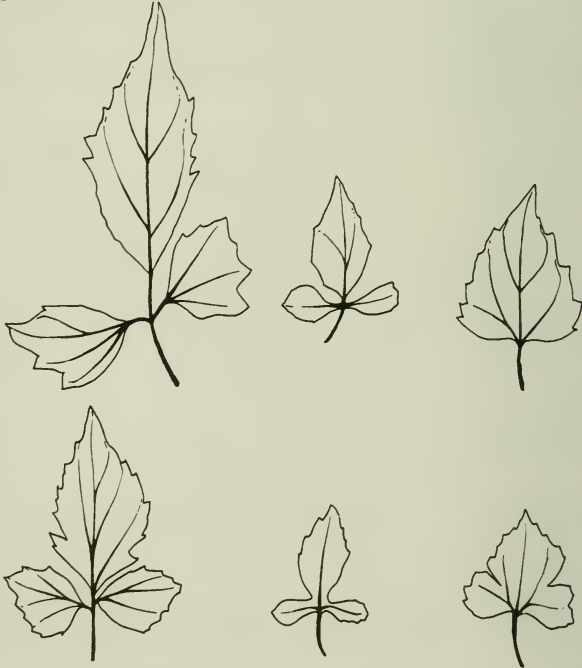


Fig. 1. Leaf variation in K. tripartitum. Top row from holotype; bottom row from Breedlove 53093.